

# THE *FLASH* OF TALENT

May 28, 2004

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works, and Police Departments.

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## Front Street Construction Begins in June

The Talent Urban Renewal Agency will begin improvements to Front Street beginning June 7, 2004. The project will reconstruct the road, install new sewer, storm and water lines, and provide pedestrian pathways and rural landscaping to maintain the existing neighborhood atmosphere. The project will extend from Wagner Street to roughly halfway between Main Street and Colver Road (within the Urban Renewal boundary). General construction should be completed by the end of September, followed by landscaping later this fall. As with all construction projects, starting and ending dates can be affected by weather and other unforeseen conditions.

For more information, please contact Urban Renewal Agency Executive Director Marla Cates at 535-6170.

## Committee and Commission Vacancies

The City Council has adopted the recommendations of an ad hoc committee to establish a new committee aimed at addressing economic development issues for the City. The new Economic Development Committee will include: 2 City Councilors, 3 licensed Talent-based business representatives (1 from the Business Association), 1 representative from the Urban Renewal Agency and 1 member of the community. We also have vacancies on our Parks Commission and its Advisory Board, the Enhancement Committee, the Planning Commission Advisory Board, the Traffic Safety and Transportation Commission and the Talent Harvest Festival Committee.

If you are interested in serving on any of the above committees or commissions, please pick up an application at City Hall, 204 East Main Street, or download one from [here](#).

## Curbside Recycling Made Easy

The days of cramming all your recyclables into that small blue bin and carrying it to the curb are gone. Ashland Sanitary and Recycling has introduced the all new, 65 gallon easy-to-use *roll* cart that will hold just about all your household recyclables. Complete with a blue lid, this new cart will hold everything from newspaper and magazines to plastics and cardboard. But before tossing out your plastics, check the neck. Here's the rule: if the neck is smaller than the base (milk jugs, pop bottles, water bottles, etc.), then it's acceptable. If the neck is *not* smaller than the base (margarine tubs, yogurt cups, etc.), then it cannot be included. Also, make sure to rinse out all plastics and remove the lids before tossing into your cart. Do not include plastic bottles that contained motor oil, pesticides, herbicides, or other hazardous materials.

The small blue bins will now be used for recycling glass and motor oil (placed in tightly sealed plastic screw-top container). Simply place your blue bin out on the curb next to your new roll cart by 7:00 a.m. on your regularly scheduled trash day. If you are not going to use your blue bin for glass or motor oil, please return it to Ashland Sanitary and Recycling, 170 Oak Street in Ashland.

One more thing to note, recycling will now be picked up *every other week* in Talent. To

## New Water Master Plan 2004-2025

The City Council contracted with Economic and Engineering Services, Inc. to update the City's Water Master Plan, develop a Capital Improvement Plan for the water system and recommend the methodology associated with System Development Charges (SDC) now being assessed by the City to new development. Due to the increased costs associated with construction of infrastructure, new infrastructure built by the City since the calculation of the prior SDC, and identification of new assets from the Master Plan that will be required to serve additional growth, they are recommending an increase in the SDCs. The City Council will be discussing the appropriate increase in these fees that are charged when new construction takes place in the next several months. Public hearings will be held related to this increase.

The good news is that the consultants are not recommending an increase in the monthly water rate charged to current users until sometime in the future. While overall the water system is in good condition, there is a need to follow a program of upgrading existing water lines to ensure consistent

get signed up for commingled recycling or to find out when recycling is being picked up in your area, call Ashland Sanitary at 482-0759.

water flow throughout the City. They are also recommending improvements to the pump stations at the Public Works facility and Wagner Creek. In addition, around 2015 the City will need to plan for the construction of a new reservoir to be located in the closer into the City and to abandon the Wagner Creek facility.

The City now has a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the water system and knows what will be needed in the future to maintain and improve the system.

## **Cop Talk**

**By Officer Shane Wilson**

The Talent Police Department will soon be online with its Mobile Data Computer (MDC) program. By early July, all patrol vehicles in our department will be equipped with a MDC—a wireless laptop computer—that will be connected directly with our dispatching center, Southern Oregon Regional Communications (SORC) in Medford. The primary benefits of having this new equipment are to cut down on dispatch air time and to provide officers with **up-to-the-second** information pertaining to *any* call requesting our assistance.

SORC is one of two 911 centers in Jackson County and they dispatch for approximately **25** police, fire, and emergency medical agencies. To ensure emergency calls are dispatched efficiently, the MDC program has been implemented in several communities in the valley and, with inter-agency grant money from SORC and the Jackson County Sheriffs Office, Talent will be next to come online.

The in-car computers allow officers to receive **all** information related to any call requesting police assistance. Higher priority calls would still be dispatched over the radio, but all call details being transmitted would be sent directly to the patrol vehicle's mobile computer. Lower priority calls (barking dogs, abandoned vehicles, etc.) would be sent directly to the MDC, but would *not* be dispatched over the radio; thus reserving air time for emergencies only.

Having dispatch information sent to us directly helps in ensuring our effectiveness once we get to a call (we have all the details) and it helps to ensure our safety (we don't have to take down information while driving). The MDC will also give us access to criminal and motor vehicle databases so we can perform these checks during traffic stops without waiting for dispatch to check and report back the information. We'll be able to send and receive data from other officers, instantly view photographs and video, and receive information on all missing persons and dangerous criminals. We feel these computers will help us do our jobs

## **Planning Department News**

### **Seeking Advisory Board members**

The Planning Commission is seeking Advisory Board members. To have input on development that's taking place in Talent, apply today! Call John Adam, City Planner, at 535-7401 or e-mail at [john@cityoftalent.org](mailto:john@cityoftalent.org).

### **Long-range Planning**

The City continues to work on amendments to the Zoning Ordinance using funding from the Transportation and Growth Management program. The adoption process will begin in late June or early July. The objective is to have a more streamlined, easier-to-use code.

The Planning Department has begun the process for rezoning several properties along Highway 99 and Valley View Road from Retail-Wholesale Commercial (C3) to Central Business District Commercial (C2). The goal is to foster a commercial environment that provides greater opportunities for mixed-use development. The Planning Commission also feels the area would be better served by greater retail and office use opportunities rather than some common C3 uses, such as mini-storage or automobile sales lots. The Planning Commission held its first public hearing on this process on May 27, 2004. Their recommendation will be discussed by the City Council in June.

## **City's Budget Pending Council Approval**

After reviewing the City of Talent's proposed budget for 2004-05, the Budget Committee recommended its approval by the City Council. The Council will hold a public hearing on June 2, 2004 to take citizen comments on the proposed budget and will

more efficiently and, in turn, that makes for a safer community for us all.

Also, the Talent Police Department will be participating in a traffic safety blitz campaign over the Memorial Day holiday period. During this blitz officers will work dedicated hours of traffic safety overtime to enforce seatbelt laws and DUII laws. The blitz period is scheduled from May 24<sup>th</sup> until June 6<sup>th</sup>. After that, we'll continue to enforce these laws, but during the blitz period enforcement will be increased.

adopt it at this meeting unless any changes are considered.

Copies of the proposed budget are available for review at City Hall, 204 East Main Street.

## Green-Up & Clean-Up and Down By the Riverside

The City of Talent and the Talent Enhancement Committee would like to thank all who participated in the Green-Up and Clean-Up of Talent on May 15th and the litter removal and clean-up of Lynn Newbry Park on May 22nd. The effort put forth by our citizens and business owners in this community shows us that there is a genuine interest in cleaning up the trash in this city. We hope that these efforts continue and that others can share in the responsibility for keep Talent clean.

## Street Sweeping Switches to Thursdays

Street sweeping in Talent will now be taking place on **Thursdays**. All streets that have curbs and gutters will be swept and cleaned *early* Thursday mornings.

As usual, the City is asking for your cooperation in keeping vehicles off the roadway during this time. Thank you in advance for helping to keep our streets clean.